

*A Letter from a Gentleman of  
Switzerland to a Counsellor of  
Friburgh.*

*Paris, April 1703.*

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**P**URsuant to my Engagement, I will now draw the Curtain under which either Forgetfulness or Mens Inadvertence has bury'd Actions of the greatest Importance, which if I can revive to your Memory in a due Light, it may be Instructive, and afford wholsome Advice to all *Europe* amidst the Calamities which now overwhelm it.

I shall prove to you, That the House of *Austria* has, in good earnest, aspir'd to that Universal Monarchy, which the Emperor and his Ministers in every Court charge, without ground, on the House of *Bourbon*; and to carry this Grand Point, has, from the first moment of its Elevation, ~~aded~~aded through thick and thin, and stuck at none of those unlawful and criminal Methods, which it unjustly upbraids

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the other with putting at present in execution.

God alone, who is the Searcher of Hearts, and who inspects that of Kings, has an Almighty Penetration into the Soul of the King of *France*, as well as that of the Emperor, and knows the Sincerity, or the Falshood, the Innocence, or the Injustice of their Intentions; for my part, I do not pretend to Justify or to Arraign their Thoughts; I will not take upon me to divine what Motives influence their Actions, not being willing either to renew or believe any defamatory Suspicions.

The French and the Imperialists equally accus'd of an extravagant Ambition, are not treated at the same rate for the Measures they take to compass their end; the Libels spawn'd by the Enemies of *France* only blame the one for some Rigours and Out-stretches of Authority; the loose Pamphlets of the Times load the credit of the other with Crimes and black Attempts: Perhaps they are both Innocent alike. I am sensible how trifling and uncertain popular Judgments are of Princes whilst living, how erroneous and false the Discourses of 'em are during their Reign; Ignorance or Passion, Flattery or Hatred, corrupts and infects all the Accounts we have of 'em. Truth is almost ever mask'd and effac'd when they are on the Throne, and we have only the thorough Discoveries when they are in their Tombs. Allow me then a wise and respectful silence of Monarchs now Reigning; I shall only entertain you



you with those whom the common Law of Mortality, in levelling them with the meanest of their Subjects, has submitted to the Scrutiny and Censure of all Men. I shall relate to you many Occurrences of a long date, and compare them with the present, and shall only assume the liberty to draw sometimes such Consequences, as a very close Resemblance betwixt one and the other might naturally suggest to any reasonable Man.

I will write plainly and inartificially what the most faithful Relators have transmitted to Posterity; I will not mix any false Colours, or put in any aggravating Strokes to what I shall describe, the naked Objects, and so represented as I find 'em in standard Authors, are of themselves shocking enough; for if we may believe Historians, the Spirit of Usurpation animated the House of *Austria* as soon as it sprung up, and that it pretended to the Claim of Sovereignty; and ever since an exact Correspondence in the Conduct and Schemes of all their Princes, has given ample Manifestations of the same Spirit: Let the means to support an Usurpation be as black as they would, their Councils have ever found some popular Varnish to make 'em passable and indifferent; perfidious underhand Dealings, Frauds, mean Trickings, publick Violations of Treaties, and Infractions of Rights the most sacred; the commission of the most astonishing Crimes, Treasons, Murthers, Assassinations, Poysonings, Ambition, presiding in their Souls, or in their Ministerial Tools,



Tools, as Authors report, has justify'd, if not consecrated all this heap of amazing Ills. But as it is impossible for one who writes in haste, and with that familiar negligence which is allow'd among Friends, not to forget a great many things which your abundant Reading can recollect, perhaps those which I have pretermitted, will render me suspected for being too grossly partial in my flattering of the House of *Austria*.

*Rodolph* Earl of *Hapsburgh* (who as I wrote sometime ago to one of our common Friends) first laid the Foundation of this House; *Rodolph*, I say, a private Courtier, and by common Fame a Domestick of *Ottocare* King of *Bohemia*, after having acquir'd a Reputation during the time of the long Wars which that King had with the Kings of *Hungary*, was chosen by the *Switzers* to be their Commander, the Defender of their Liberty against a Set of Confederates vvho vvould deprive 'em of it, and erect themselves into High and Mightinesses; the Title of Protector of the *Helvetick* Body satiated his soaring Humour at that time; but an unlook'd for friendly turn of Fortune inspir'd him vvith Thoughts of a more exalted pitch. After the death of *Frederic* II. and a confused Jumble of Affairs for 22 years in the Empire, he vv as elected Emperor, and lull'd the unquiet Spirits into a temporary Repose; then did he cast the Design of that prodigious Advancement of his House, at the Expence of the Empire, and of the Princes of the Empire: His Projects took effect



effect at first ; then did he set on foot the long train of Usurpations and Wrongs, which his Descendants, working on his Plan, have superlatively out-done.

He projected at first dash a Sovereignty for them in *Germany*, which made them so formidable, that the Electors vvere obliged to yield up the Empire to them, and so by degrees it became Hereditary. He had a labouring fancy to find out Ways and Means, by fly Pretences, to dethrone a Crovvn'd Head ; and, as if he had a mind to teach his Posterity to be above all Conscientious Scruples, vvhich some Sparks of Moral Vertues might excite in vulgar Souls, he not only resolved to depose *Ottocare* his gracious old Master King of *Bohemia*, but succeeded in that infamous Disloyalty.

He had fortify'd himself vvith an Alliance vvith the King of *Hungary*, at that time in Hostility vvith the King of *Bohemia* ; he supplied himself vvith Mony out of *Italy*, by selling the Royal Patrimony of the Empire, by enfranchising from the Imperial Ivvay, *Bolonia*, *Genoa*, *Florence*, *Lucca*, and such other Cities as by the Example of these vvould purchase their Liberty : He maintain'd that *Austria*, vvhich *Ottocare* possess'd in Right of his Lady, as Heir-ess of *Frederic* the last Duke of *Austria*, vvas a Masculine Fief, and fell to the Empire for vvant of Heirs-Male. The unfortunate *Ottocare* vvas slain in a Battle vvhich he lost near *Vienna* ; *Albert*, Son of *Rodolph*, vvas hereupon Invested in the Duchy of *Austria*, vvhich Name he

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assum'd, and transmitted to his Posterity. 'Twas not then time of day to invade *Bohemia*; but *Albert*, vvho by his Marriage vvith *Elizabeth* only Daughter and Heirefs of the Count of *Tirol*, had joined to the Dominions of *Austria*, the County of *Tirol*, and the Dutchy of *Carinthia*, vvith other Countries, vvvas novv become so Potent, that his Father and He made no difficulty from that time to begin the Settlement of this Hereditary Succession of the Empire, vvvhich their Successors at this day take such Pains to finish.

*Rodolph* convenes the Electors and Princes to *Franckfort*: He requires them to assure the Empire to his Son after him. Tho' he vvvere defeated of that Aim, and that after his Death *Adolph* of *Nassaw* vvvas Elected, and Crovvn'd Emperor, the Miscarriage of that Grand Design had no other Issue but to kindle *Albert's* Ambition, and to vvhet him to brandish the Svword of Terror; he lay about him on all sides to dethrone *Adolph* of *Nassaw*; he declar'd himself Emperor, by virtue of a forc'd Election, carry'd by a Tumult, and condemn'd by severall Popes, he kill'd *Adolphus* vvith his ovvn Hand, in a Battle vvvhich vvvas fought near *Worms*, and by a new Election (himself acknowledging the Irregularity and Injustice of the former) he oblig'd the Empire to own him as Emperor: He demanded for his Son the Kingdom of *Hungary*, which was refus'd him; but he had better luck in anothe Quarter, for he got him chosen King of *Bohemia*. In short, he

he became so odious by his Covetousness, the Outrages he had committed, and the Usurpations he waded through, that his own Nephew *John Duke of Swabia*, whose Territories he had invaded, and violently detain'd, Assassinated him at *Reinsfeld*, when he was at the Head of his Troops, compelling *Bohemia* to chuse another of his Sons their King, in the room of the other who was then dead, that thereby they might give the last Shackles to the Liberty of that Realm, which by the precedent Inroads upon it, was already very near expiring.

The House of *Austria* has had such Heads for its Rise, and its Princes ever faithful Followers of the Maxims to Govern and to Aggrandize themselves, laid down by their Ancestors, must be very hardy to tax others with their own Injustice and Tyranny.

Consider, I beseech you, the management of that notable Point, the Fiefs of the Empire in those early days, for it was a pretty Juggle to decreë 'em sometimes Masculine, where the House of *Austria* had a mind to divest the lawful Possessors of 'em; and then again Feminine, when they would twist 'em in by a Marriage, so that they were either one or t'other, as they would more effectually serve a Turn; therefore when the House of *Austria* is to possess 'em they have calculated an apt Word for such an useful purpose in *Germany*, viz. *Promiscus*. 'Tis surprizingly admirable when a People is of that Mould as to swallow such gross Impositions; Fortune it self must be thought to conspire

Authors.  
*Steron,*  
*Argentina,*  
*St. Antonin.*  
*Sponde.*  
*Serrarius,*  
*Sleidan.*



pire to gratify the Desires of this August House.

It knows all its Privileges, and it has had too long a Prescription to let 'em drop: So the Emperor *Leopold*, who has seen all the Kingdoms of *Spain* fall into his Family by the Head of Women, now makes 'em all purely Masculine Inheritances, alledging that they ought to belong to the Males of a more remote Line, preferably to that of the Daughter of the nearest: So he gives out that the Dutchy of *Milan* is a Masculine Fief, as *Austria* was from the days of *Rodolph*, tho' the Investitures of it (two of which are given by himself) do nominate Daughters, and vest it in them in express Words. But it seems Investitures have no Authority or Force, but when they are favourable to the Advancement of the House of *Austria*; and tho' they have been the celebrated Conveyances of Right, they are invalid, if not impertinent, when they stand in the way of its mounting.

At the same time that you represent to your self *Rodolph* Investing his Son *Albert* with the Dutchy of *Austria*, a pretended Devolution to the Empire, selling in *Italy* the Demesnes and ancient Rights of the Empire to enrich his Family; of a mean Count become a Prince: Not stopping there, but as Upstart as he was in the Rank of Princes, pushing on to place the Imperial Crown on his Son after him. Look upon *Leopold*, who without doubt challengeth more Respect, and strikes a greater  
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Awe by the long Succession of Emperors from whence he is descended, and by the great Dominions which he is Master of, who commands with more Resolution and more Success in the Empire, not like the Stadtholder of a Commonwealth, but as presiding in a Monarchy of which he is born the Sovereign, who puts his Son upon 'em as King of the *Romans* whether they will or no, laughs at the Protestations made against such a bias'd Election, violates the Constitutions of the Empire, drives a publick Trade with the Dignities of it, such as new Electorates, and new Kingdoms; institutes them in open contempt of the Articles of his own Capitulation solemnly swore to, despising the still more sacred Engagements of the *Golden Bull*, overlooking all the ancient Precautions of the whole Empire, confirm'd and seal'd by the Peace of *Munster*, on occasion of the *Palatinate* of the *Rhine* being turn'd into an Electorate heretofore, as *Hannover* is now.

Observe how *Bohemia* and *Hungary* who were only look'd on, and envy'd by *Rodolph* and *Albert*, have not been able to withstand the ardent pursuits of the indefatigable House of *Austria*, but are at length depriv'd of their Right of Election, stript of their Liberty, and of all their Privileges, are lock'd up in *Leopold's* Chains, and are become his Patrimony. When I compare what has been attempted or contriv'd by the first Emperors of this House, with what is accomplish'd in our days, I think the Honour is reserv'd to *Leopold* alone to go thro'  
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with all Projections of his Predecessors, to hamper with what Fetters he pleaseth this overgrown *German* Body, these Renowned *Germans*, who are seated in the World in the room of the old *Romans*. How is it possible for 'em to avoid being Slaves if the Electors continue, as they have done for near three hundred years, not to Elect freely, but to Crown by compulsion the Emperors of the same House? These Emperors will lodge in their Family the Fiefs of the Empire, according as they become vacant by a deficiency of lawful Heirs, or by other Accidents; these Fiefs being join'd all together will make a Power more considerable than that of all the Empire: The Empire thus will be constrain'd sometime or other to obey its Fiefs, and in truth will be no more in the whole, than one Great Fief of the House of *Austria*.

After the death of *Albert*, *Germany* had some Rest; *Henry VII.* of the House of *Luxemburg*, was elected Emperor without any opposition: The House of *Austria* was confounded at the Murther of *Albert*, but durst make no Words of it; but as soon as *Henry* was dead (not without suspicion of Poyson, says *Sleidan*) it held up its Head again, *Frederic* Duke of *Austria*, and Son of *Albert*, pretended to repossess himself of the Succession of his Ancestors; at that rate did he treat the Empire already. *Louis* of *Bavaria* was in the mean time elected to his Prejudice, and was Crown'd at *Aix* by the Elector of *Mentz*; but *Frederic* got himself Crown'd

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at *Bonn* by the Elector of *Cologne*; Pope *John XXII.* allow'd 'em both Emperors, tho' *Frederic* was his greatest Favourite.

Fierce Wars and frightful Dissentions overspread all *Germany* at this time; Emperors with different Titles, Eagles display'd against Eagles, *Germans* against *Germans*, two Rivals dispute for the Empire, but will allow no Umpirage without bloody Battles; so that twice in less than thirty years the *Austrian* Ambition brought in the Curse of a Civil War, and made *Germany* become too sadly a Field of Blood in a literal sense. These are the good Turns so often, (with Ostentation) rung in our Ears by the Emperor, and his Ministers, in all the Diets of the Empire, and all the Courts where they Negotiate: These, I say, are the singular Benefactions which tie the *Germans* so fast to the Imperial Line.

*Frederic* dies, and being forc'd to relinquish a Title wickedly set up, went to lay his Bones in his Hereditary Countries: After his time the House of *Austria*, for near a whole Age, lay still, and all its towring Projections kept close, till *Albert II.* in the year 1438. set 'em on foot. He was elected King of *Bohemia*, King of *Hungary*, and Emperor. This was he who began that long uninterrupted Succession of Emperors, to this very Emperor on the Throne; but he did not survive this signal Advancement above two years.

*Frederic III.* his Cousin, succeeds him in the Empire; and concealing his true Intentions  
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under the false cover of Moderation and Benevolence to the People, he made a vigorous Attack on the Liberty of the *Hungarians*; he possess'd himself of the Person of young *Ladislaus V.* King of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*, of whom he had been declar'd the Guardian and Protector; and then seiz'd the Crown, and all the Royal Ornaments, without which the *Hungarians* do not believe they can justly own a King: He detain'd 'em in despite of all the Complaints and Petitions of the People; which obstinate Refusals irritated them to declare War against him, and at length he was obliged to deliver them their King. But this young Prince shortly after dy'd by Poyson; and the *Hungarians*, who chose in his room *Matthias Corvin*, could not Crown him, because *Frederic* still kept, and refus'd to deliver up the darling Badges they were accusom'd to make use of in the enstating of their Sovereigns.

He match'd his Son *Maximilian* with the Lady *Mary*, Heiress of the House of *Burgundy*; this Princess did not live long after her Marriage. The Guardianship of the only Son left by that Lady, gave *Frederic* and *Maximilian* a plausible Handle to abolish the Liberty, and cancel the Privileges of the States of *Flanders*. Every Body is acquainted with the Revolts, the Seditions, the wasting Wars with which *Flanders* was afflicted so long on the score of that unjust Enterprize: 'Tis known also how well *Maximilian* kept his Word, after the Peace solemnly concluded and sworn to, when he  
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entred the City of *Gaunt* with 5000 Men, instead of 500, which he was only by the Articles allow'd to bring in.

'Tis undoubtedly on the bottom of an infinite number of Actions like this, and others which I have already related, with which the History of the House of *Austria* is overstock'd, that it arrogates that unwarrantable Privilege, reproachfully to object to the French King the least seeming Contravenings to Treaties, the shortest involuntary Delays of the Execution of 'em, and the taking away of some few Carriages of Cannon from Places entirely restor'd, as Crimes of the deepest enormity, as if that House did believe that it alone had Imperial License to scatter Injustice, Violence, Usurpation and Revenge in the World.

*Maximilian I.* was elected King of the *Romans* in the Life-time of *Frederic*, was Crown'd Emperor after him, and he order'd the Titles of King of *Hungary* and *Bohemia* to be Inscrib'd on the Tomb which he erected for his Father; He thought this entitl'd him to dispose of those two Crowns to his Heirs. 'Tis with this Prospect, that abusing the mean Abilities, and the too great easiness of *Ladislaus VI.* Head of the eldest Branch of the famous *Jagellons* (whose younger House govern'd *Poland*) and King of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*: He made that Treaty with him which prov'd so fatal to the Liberty of so many People; the most Important Article of which was, That for want of Heirs-Male of the Posterity of *Ladislaus*, the House of *Austria* should succeed to the Kingdoms of *Bohemia* and *Hun-*

*Onaphrius.*  
*Cuspinian.*  
*Villani.*  
*Argentina.*  
*Sponde.*  
*Naucler.*  
*Eneas.*  
*Silvius.*  
*Paulus.*  
*Fovius.*  
*Guiccardina.*  
*Heiss.*  
*Varillas.*



gary. 'Twas also with the same Design, that as soon as he heard of the death of *Ladislaus*, he quitted *Italy*, where his Presence was necessary, to reap advantage by the Seditions which the Guardianship of young *Louis II.* the Son of *Ladislaus*, might excite.

This malevolent Treaty, so equally contrary to common Right, to the Rights of the Empire, and to those of the Kingdoms of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*, was attended with dismal Circumstances at its Execution shortly after the death of *Maximilian*.

*Louis II.* who had married his Sister *Anne* to *Ferdinand* the Grand-child of *Maximilian*, and who had no Children by *Mary* of *Austria*, the Sister of *Ferdinand*, was unhappily kill'd at the noted Battle of *Mohats*, that *Soliman* the Emperor of the *Turks* won of him in the year, 1526. *Ferdinand* was elected King of *Bohemia* and *Hungary*, notwithstanding the generous Opposition of some *Hungarian* Lords, whose unsuccessful Efforts were the last Groans of the expiring Liberty of their Country, for so in process of time *Bohemia* and *Hungary* are deem'd Hereditary Provinces of the House of *Austria*. What a constant and surprizing number of fortuitous Events have concurr'd with the Designs of this House? Princes die poyson'd, or are lost in Battles, and ever at such a nicking Juncture their death happens, that it is necessary to correspond with the measures which the House of *Austria* hath taken, as if it had foretold the time. Is it blind Fortune that does all these prodigious Feats? But it is not time yet for you

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to make your Reflections hereupon, nor to ask of you, if a House which owes its Establishment to such extraordinary and suspected Methods, which has infring'd so many Laws of the Empire, and violated so many other Rights, has yet some Complemental Respects paid it by all the World, when that fastens the most outrageous Reproaches on its Enemies who have been silent, for some uncertain Injustices, and for the doubtful Non-execution of some Treaties; therefore I hasten to present you a larger and more magnificent Scene.

Hitherto I have only entertain'd you with the Preludes, and, as it were, the Infancy of the House of *Austria*: 'Twas under the Reign of *Jupiter*, in his Minority, that his Subjects found, when he was yet on the Earth, some Remains of Innocence and Simplicity. The House of *Austria* yet contented it self to Invade some private Countries, to condemn the Troops and the Authority of the Empire, to tear it in pieces, to usurp its Fiefs, to divest ancient and lawful Lords of their Lordships, to augment its own Patrimony by Confiscations of theirs, and that Legerdemain Contrivance of Reunions, it had aspir'd no higher than to plunder the Realms of *Bohemia* and *Hungary* of their Liberty, to make the Empire Hereditary, and to establish over all *Germany* a despotick or absolute Sovereignty.

'Twas but only under *Charles V.* that it grew formidable by the Union of all the Kingdoms of *Spain* with his other Dominions, 'twas then it openly set up for Universal Monarchy; it did

no more perplex it self to find out plausible Handles to support a Claim, but believed every thing stood fair and smooth to help forward the Accomplishment of so great a Design.

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In my discoursing of *Charles* the 5th, I do not pretend to take his Character from his bitter Adversaries, who reproach him with the Faults of his Ancestors, and say that he was endebted for the greatest part of the Countries, which he had in Right of his Mother, to the greatest Crimes, and the blackest Perfidiousness.

I know that *John* of Arragon was held, in these last Ages, for a Prince of the highest Injustice; I know that *Ferdinand* the Catholick has been accused of many falsifications, and breaches of his Word, I know that even *Philip* the First, that was the most Humane, the Justest, and of the greatest Moderation of all the *Austrian* Princes, has not been unsuspected of an ambition and a desire to Rule too precipitate. Historians give out, that having not deference enough for the last Will of *Isabel*, who left to *Ferdinand* the Catholick, her Husband, the enjoyment of all her Realms for his Life-time: He very much promoted the Revolt of his Subjects, who call'd him in, and acknowledged him for their King, to the damage and dishonour of *Ferdinand*, and after all this, constrain'd that aged Grey-headed Monarch to sink his Purple, and to throw himself a miserable Suppliant even at his Feet.

'Twas perhaps the remembrance of the Historical Relation, and the Example in his own  
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Family, which might forward the Emperor's Approbation of the Dethroning of a Father by his Son-in-Law. Pardon me this short Digression.

I do not pretend, I say, to charge any thing upon *Charles V.* which was not his own Act; I should be happy, on the other side, if I could blot out of Men's Memories those disfiguring Representations (which 'tis pity they are intermix'd with so fine a Life as his, and which in other Points is so worthy of Imitation) which my Design first laid down obligeth me to set to view.

The first Act of the Reign of this Great Prince, as young as he was, was the Treaty of *Noyon*, which he made with *Francis I.* of *France*: He was in *Flanders*, and the necessity of his Affairs call'd him into *Spain*, where the People of *Arragon* would, in prejudice of his Right, set the Crown on his younger Brother *Ferdinand*. There was no way for him to go either by Sea or Land so speedily into *Spain*, as his Presence was required, as through *France*; which passage was granted him, he promising with solemn and the accustomed Oaths to restore *Navarre* to young *Henry* the Son of *John* of *Albret*, from whom *Ferdinand* had Usurped the Realm.

This Restitution was never made, nor the refusal ever colour'd over by any fair Plea; he only contented himself to confess before he dy'd, and to order his Son *Philip II.* by his Will to examine the Justice or the Injustice of his holding the Realm of *Navarre*; six Months after the death of *Maximilian* his Grandfather he was Elected Emperor; his Ambition in the dawning, and the dangerous Maxims of his Policy so soon discover'd,

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made those who Elected him tremble, the Suffrage of the Archbishop of *Triers*, ( whose Family has been long since Persecuted by the House of *Austria*, the Vote I say of this Archbishop, who steadily named *Francis I.* and who giving reason of his refusal to concur with the rest for the Election of *Charles*, wrote a kind of Prophecy of the Reign of the House of *Austria*, and of the Destruction of the Liberty of the *Germans*, astonish'd them, they did endeavour to take Precautions against the Misfortunes which they fear'd, and which were foretold them.

They did not think themselves sufficiently guarded by the antient Constitutions of the Empire, which till then had maintained that equality of Balance betwixt the Authority of the Head, and the Privilege of the Members, by which the Body of the Commonwealth was harmoniously preserved, they addsd to 'em a Capitulation, the use of which has been introduc'd, and since observ'd at all Elections.

The Capitulation is, as you know, a sort of Contract which the Emperor enters into with the Empire, before he is declared Emperor, and which he ratifies as soon as he is Proclaimed, 'twas contriv'd and put in practice the first time at the Election of *Charles V.* as a Barrier against his too Masterly Authority, a weak and an useless Barrier, which never stop'd him, and which the Princes of his House, his Successors, have leap'd over more resolutely than he.

The Capitulation of the present Emperor consists of Forty seven or Forty eight Articles, scarce has he observ'd Four or Five of the least moment  
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of 'em, all the other have been violated with a high Hand : I have this Capitulation in my hands, and I am preparing to lay all the Violations of it before you, which perhaps you will not be unwilling to submit to the eyes of the *Germans*, who suffer them in Particulars, and would without doubt shew their Resentment to hinder them, if they saw 'em draw up in a Body. But let us come back to *Charles V.* and to the horrid Courses which he took to oppress all his Subjects.

Have you not observ'd in his History this remarkable Place, and in my sense monstrous? when seeking to depreciate *Francis I.* whose Intelligences in *Germany* disturb'd him, he did not Blush (as many Scepters and Crowns as he was Master of) to make that King odious, to invent and write himself horrible Calumnies, and sustained them by Suppositions more shameful than the Slanders themselves.

He caus'd publick Preachments to be made in Churches, that it was not for any private or particular Quarrel that *Francis I.* made War upon him, but it was to ruin the Christian Religion, to favour the Designs of the Turks, to make a Diversion, and employ the Forces of the Christians on the *Rhine*, whilst the Infidels might attack 'em on the *Danube*. To make this strange Conspiracy of *France* against Christianity be believed, there was Printed with the Emperor's License a Challenge, and a Recital of it, containing the Name of the Herald, the Date, and the Place of its being Presented, given to the King, when there was a great Confluence of Princes and Nobles with him ; says *William of Bellay*, the Herald, as *Charles* would



would have it be believed by his printed Papers, the Herald, I say, had presented to the King a Sword, forg'd in Flames on one side, and on the other enamel'd with Red, and had declared that this Sword signified the dead-doing War with Blood and Fire which the Emperor his Master denounc'd against him, unless he would come off from his unhappy and damnable Alliance and Conspiration which he had made with the Turk, against Christians, and the Christian Religion.

There was not any one in *Germany* that was not in a fit about it, and that did not give credit to the Challenge vvhich was Published: Was it to be Presum'd, that a Prince that made such a Figure as the Emperor did, vvhould have sent it with so unpractic'd and in such an astonishing manner, if he had not been well assur'd and inform'd of the Truth of that vvhich he advanc'd against a Prince of so great a Character as the King of *France*? The Perswasion of its Truth was so strong, that when the Lord of *Langey* sent by *Francis I.* to negotiate considerable matters for the common Liberty, he was star'd upon and shun'd by every one as a Monster: His old Friends thought they did him a mighty Office of Friendship, if to hinder him from being torn in pieces they hid him in a Barn: It fell out luckily, that it was the time when Merchants came in from the Fair of *Lyons*, and were going to that of *Strasburg*; he ingag'd his Friends to examine 'em publickly, and to ask them what news in *France*: they found that they knew nothing of the matter, that they had heard nothing of a Herald, or a Sword, or of the extraordinary Challenge which made such a Noise in *Germany*,

Germany, and which rendered the Name of the King so detestable there ; they were sensible also by their Discourse, that at that very time when the Writings of the Emperor did bear them in hand, that his Challenge was imparted to the King at Lyons ; that Prince was not there, he was at St. Chez, at St. Rambert, and at Mombrison, probably in a Progress ; the Date, the Place, the Witnesses all overthrow the Suppositions of Charles V. the disgraceful Artifice was laid open, the opprobrious Blot was wip'd off by all the World : *Langey* had his Audience, and executed successfully the Orders of the King his Master. Under what Denomination shall we rank a Politick Fetch so new and unheard of, not only amongst Christians, and Princes, but even amongst the Vulgar ? But what serious Reflections should the remembrance of this History beget new in the Breasts of the  *Germans*  ? The Emperor  *Leopold*  begins to spread the like ungrounded and false Reports against the King of  *France* , or against the Elector of  *Bavaria*  ; they print and sell in  *Vienna*  Copies of Propositions made by one or t'other to the Turks, and sent by the Turks themselves to  *Vienna*  ; they expose surreptitious Copies of Letters intercepted from the Elector of  *Bavaria* , or from the Elector of  *Cologne*  ; they disperse amongst the People a thousand other Libels of as little Credit : Will not the  *Germans*  yet be convinc'd, that this Intelligence with the Turks, so unreasonably laid to the Door of its Enemies by the House of  *Austria* , is its never-failing Buckler and Shield ?

And a *Medusa's* Head so often expos'd to make Men stupid and blind to their true Interests, instead of being deeply surprized at such Management; Men ought to arm themselves against the Managers, and speedily unite with those who have been so falsely branded as Disturbers of their Country, when indeed they are the truest Protectors, and the only Defenders of it. What I have communicated to you out of the Memoirs of *Bellay* is slight and harmless, in comparison of what is farther to be collected out of 'em; do not expect that I should enlarge my self farther on so ungrateful a Subject: I wish you could Divine the rest, and save me the nauseous trouble of expressing it, or that there could be a Salvo for my word given, that I might over-pass the rest in a preferable Silence.

*Charles V.* in order to conquer *France*, the gaining of which Kingdom would have perfected his Project of an Universal Monarchy, wav'd the more dilatory Methods of Lying, and Slander, against which the *French* Nation was proof, and got together a very formidable Army; with which in 1535, or 1536, he fell into *Provence*; he harangu'd his Soldiers, gave 'em the Reasons of that Expedition, and did assure 'em by his Conduct, that their Victory should be certain. But what Measures he could take to ground this braving Assurance on were not visible; neither did it appear, or does yet, from what Quarter any Succours could come to him: For he withdrew his Army without doing any thing, and took leave of it as soon as he came into *Italy*; but very near the same time



time that this Design upon *Provence* broke out, the Dauphin of *France* was Poyson'd by the Infamous *Sebastian* of *Montecuculi*, a Native of *Ferrara*, who found means to make himself one of the Household of that Prince in the Post of Cup-bearer, and who, as 'tis whisper'd, did but execute one part of his Abominable Intention.

He was Accus'd, and taken into Custody; his Indictment was form'd and drawn up in the Presence of the Princes of the Blood, of the Knights Companions of the Order of the Lords and Barons of the Realm, of the Legate and Nuncio of the Pope, of the Embassadors of *England*, *Scotland*, *Portugal* and *Venice*, and all the *Italian* and *German* Lords, which then in great Numbers adorn'd the Court of *Francis I.* The Perfidious Poysoner, who was convicted and drawn in pieces by four Horses, declared (perhaps falsely in his Interrogatories) that when he was presented to the Emperor, the Emperor ask'd him, *If he was acquainted with the order and way which was usually taken by the King at his Meals?* Certainly, if there had not been something else in the Wind, as *Bellay* observes, if the Drift had been only to surprize some Cities and Towns in *France*, the Emperor needed not to have step'd so far out of his way as to pry into the King's Bill of Fare, or his own Oeconomy at the Table. But it is yet plainer, that if *France* by so horrible an Undertaking had been robb'd of its King, and the rest of the Children of the Blood (for 'tis vehemently suspected that *Montecuculi* was engag'd to dispatch 'em all with a levelling Poyson) and had then been invaded by

*Hilarion de  
Coste du  
Bellay.*

*Charles*

*Charles V.* already Master of so many Kingdoms, might he not, by an absolute Sovereignty, have given Law to all *Europe*?

But let us imagine the best that we can, and even too against all probability; let us believe it impossible, for the Honour of Humanity to be true, rather than so Great a Prince should be thought capable of so black an Action, yet still it must be granted that the House of *Austria*, which lies under such odious Imputations, must not at any rate be suffer'd to tarnish at this time the August House of *Bourbon* by lying Stories, to whom its greatest Enemies have not objected any thing which looks like a Crime.

There is such a Crowd of other Actions of *Charles V.* and of his Successors in *Germany* that occur to me, that they cannot be cramp'd in the compass of a Letter, unless I should swell it to the bulk of a Book: Give me your Favour then to stop a little, and that I may reserve for another Post the remainder of my Collection and Reflection.

I am, Sir,

At Basle, 1702.

Tours, &c.

F I N I S.

